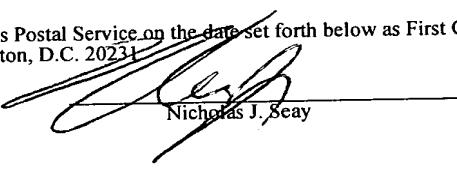


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

of Signature and Deposit: April 20, 2000


Nicholas J. Seay

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rafael Arguello
Alejandro Madrigal

Date: April 20, 2000

Serial No.: 09/077,615

Group Art Unit: 1653

Filed: 10/23/98

Examiner: A. Pawul

Title: METHODS FOR SEPARATING AND/OR
IDENTIFYING DNA MOLECULES

File No.: 740380.90058

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington DC 20231

Dear Sir:

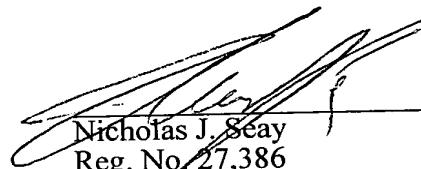
By a requirement for restriction mailed December 27, 1999 in the file of this patent application, the Examiner in charge of the examination of this application required the applicants to elect one of two inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121. In response to that requirement, the applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, designated by the Examiner to be Claims 1-9, 29, and 30, drawn to a method for identifying and separating a DNA molecule.

However, the applicants also wish to traverse this rejection. The subject matter of the claims of Group I and the subject matter of Group II are extremely interrelated. The method for separating DNA molecules of Claim 1 is particularly designed to facilitate the complex problem of resolving HLA alleles, which is specifically recited in the preamble of Claim 18. Furthermore, although the preamble of Claims 1 and 18 is different, many of the steps are similar or overlapping. Both groups are method claims and thus are in the same statutory category. Accordingly, an examination of the merits of either sets of claims will inevitably involve the same prior art and the same considerations that would be involved in examination

of the other. Therefore, for the convenience of the applicants and of the Office, examination of these two sets of claims in the same patent application would be more efficient.

Accordingly, it is requested that this requirement for restriction be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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